



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF WATER

JAN 16 2009

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: 2008 Report on National Water Program Actions to Respond to Climate Change

FROM: Benjamin H. Grumbles
Assistant Administrator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "B. Grumbles", written over the printed name and title.

TO: Interested Parties

I am pleased to provide a report on the work the National Water Program has done throughout 2008 to address the many challenges that a changing climate poses for protection of water resources. The report, *Implementing the National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change -- Progress Report for 2008*, is now available on the internet at www.epa.gov/water/climatechange.

This report addresses National Water Program actions related to climate change and is divided into three major sections:

- a summary of progress in implementing the 44 key actions identified in the *National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change*;
- an overview of the substantial climate change work done by water programs in EPA's ten regional offices; and
- a description of National Water Program activities related to climate change that are not specifically addressed by a key action in the *Strategy*.

Overall, progress in implementation of the *Strategy* in 2008 has been substantial. Work on all but three of the 44 key actions has been initiated. For most of these actions, interim milestones and schedules have been accomplished and work is on schedule. Six of these actions are currently behind schedule and one of the key actions is now complete.

A few highlights of the successful implementation efforts include:

- publication of proposed regulations designed to assure that geologic sequestration of carbon does not pose a threat to underground sources of drinking water;
- development of the "Climate Ready Estuaries Program;" and
- establishment of a Federal Interagency Workgroup on climate change and water matters.

I want to congratulate and thank all the water program managers and staff who have been working hard to address the significant challenges posed by a changing climate, even as they carry out a wide range of existing clean water and drinking water programs. The work done in 2008 lays a strong foundation for addressing the difficult challenges related to climate change that the National Water Program will face in the coming years.

Attachment:

- *Implementing the National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change -- Progress Report for 2008*